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Government schemes empowering Indian women: A study in the reference of Bihar

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Abstract

Many schemes being run by the government to empower women are now bearing fruit. These schemes are not only empowering the women of villages in India but they are also becoming aware of their rights. Bihar is the best example of this. Where today women's status has increased not only in jobs but also in the family. Women's respect and self-respect have both increased. Calling women weak is now a thing of the past. Women's interference and their participation has increased in every field of society and family. Today no family will be able to live happily by ignoring women. The schemes being run by the Government of India and the Government of Bihar to make women empowered and self-reliant have a big role behind this. In a developing state like Bihar, where earlier women not only used to go out under the veil but they also used to have less participation in the decisions of the family and society, but now this has become a thing of the past. Now women have become aware of their rights. Many laws have been made at the government level to protect their safety and their rights, which have proved to be a boon for the interests of women. After the liquor ban in Bihar, the safety of women has improved further. It is known that there is a liquor ban in Bihar since the year 2016. The effect of which has proved to be significant in the progress of women. In India, the population of women in the year 2024 is 48.4 percent. At the same time, the population of men is 51.6 percent. In India, there are 1,020 women for every 1,000 men. This is the first time that the population of women in India has exceeded that of men. Many schemes of the central government are only for women. At the same time, the Nitish government of Bihar is also running many schemes for women empowerment. The Modi government has taken many steps towards women empowerment. The benefits of which have been received by the women of the country on a large scale. Gender justice is an important commitment of the government enshrined in the Constitution of India. Several steps have been taken by the government in the last few years to promote a gender-just society and increase the representation of women in various sectors. In the last few years, India has been witnessing a rapid shift from women-led development to women-led development in the vision of a new India. Towards this end, the government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to address women's issues on a life-cycle continuum, encompassing educational, social, economic and political empowerment, so that they can become equal partners in rapid and sustainable national development. India is currently one of the 15 countries in the world to have a woman head of state. Several schemes for women empowerment in Bihar are being run by the Government of Bihar and the Government of India. Many of these schemes are related to sectors such as employment, agriculture and health. These schemes have been formulated keeping in view the situation of women in Bihar so that their participation in society can be increased. Without women empowerment, women cannot get the place in Bihar, country and society, which they have always been entitled to. Without women empowerment, she cannot fight centuries old traditions and evils. She cannot free herself from bondages and take her own decisions.

Keywords: Empowering Indian women; Government schemes; Women's respect; Women's interference; Family and society

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1. Introduction

Women are considered to be the power of creation. It is said in the scriptures that where women are not worshipped, Laxmi does not reside there. That is, even in old traditions and religion, women's respect and honour have been given the highest place. Human race is considered to exist because of women. To develop and strengthen this power of creation and to provide them with opportunities of social, economic, political equality is the spirit and meaning of women empowerment. Women empowerment was needed in Bihar because gender inequality has existed in Bihar since ancient times. Bihari society is also a male-dominated society where women's feelings and their rights have been violated. An example of this is the names like Sarpanch Pati, Mukhiya Pati, MLA Pati where women's rights are used by their husbands with full pride, considering it their right. The wrong and old practices for women that have been going on in Bihari society since ancient times have been violated by new customs and traditions. Without the development of women, no society, family, state or country can develop. There was a time when women were considered the pride of the house and were forced to stay at home. But today the situation has changed. Now women are proving themselves more powerful than men not only in the house and family but in every field. Women empowerment is a special issue in the policies and schemes of the Bihar government. The government is running many programs and schemes for women's employment, poverty eradication and to increase their self-confidence. Due to this, their income is continuously increasing. Gender justice is an important commitment of the government enshrined in the Constitution of India. Women in urban areas of Bihar are more employed than women in rural areas. About 90% of women in Bihar work as daily wage labourers mainly in agriculture and related fields. Another major reason for the need for women empowerment in Bihar is the inequality in payment. About 50 percent of the population of Bihar is only women. Dowry system, female foeticide, domestic violence, women and men not getting equal wages, sexual exploitation etc. are the main obstacles in women empowerment. The condition of women in Bihar in the medieval era had become very pathetic. At that time, there was a purdah system in the society, the male society liked to see women behind the curtains and within the four walls of the house. In the medieval era, women did not have the freedom for economic independence, elite marriage, education and employment. Even after 70 years of independence, the condition of women is still the same in some cases as it was before independence. Even before independence, women had to face bad practices like economic dependence, lack of education, restrictions on employment, joint family system, polygamy and dowry system. Although there have been some changes in these 70 decades, it cannot be denied, but problems like dowry system, lack of education and restrictions on employment still exist today.

2. Several steps have been taken by the Central Government

Several steps have been taken by the Government in the last few years to promote a gender just society and increase the representation of women in various sectors. These include enactment of criminal laws and special laws such as the 'Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005', 'Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961', 'Prohibition of Child Marriage Act, 2006'; 'Indecent Representation of Women (Prohibition) Act, 1986'; Enabling provisions for inclusion of women include 'Sexual Harassment of Women (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013', 'Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956', 'Commission for Prevention of Sati Act, 1987', 'Protection of Children from Sexual Offences Act, 2012', 'Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015, minimum 1/3 reservation for women in Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs), reservation for women in Central/State Police Forces, National Defence Academy (NDA) and Sainik Schools, Commando Forces etc. Over the past few years, India has been witnessing a rapid shift from women-led development to women-led development in line with the vision of a New India. Towards this end, the Government has adopted a multi-pronged approach to address women issues across the life-cycle continuum encompassing educational, social, economic and political empowerment so that they can become equal partners in rapid and sustainable national development. India is currently one of the 15 countries in the world to have a female head of state. Globally, India has the highest number of elected female representatives in local governments. India has 10 per cent more female pilots than the global average. According to the International Women Airline Pilots Society, globally about five per cent of pilots are women. In India, the share of female pilots is significantly higher, i.e. more than 15 per cent. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has issued an advisory to all scheduled airlines and major airport operators in India to participate in the International Air Transport Association (IATA) initiative by 2025, an industry-wide diversity and inclusion project. It aims to increase the number of women in senior positions to 25 per cent as against currently reported metrics or provide a minimum of 25 per cent representation by 2025. The Airports Authority of India (AAI) has enabled female participation in sensitive domains fundamental to the functioning of the organization such as air traffic control, fire services, airport operations. Female candidates are further exempted from fees in the direct recruitment process conducted by AAI.

The Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER) of girls in primary and secondary education is almost equal to that of boys. The presence of girls/women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) is 43 per cent, one of the highest

in the world. Several initiatives have been taken to increase the participation of women in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). VigyanJyoti was launched in 2020 to balance the underrepresentation of girls in various streams of science and technology from class 9th to 12th. The Overseas Fellowship Scheme, launched in 2017-18, provides Indian women scientists and technologists an opportunity to conduct international collaborative research in STEM. Several women scientists have played a key role in India's first Mars Orbiter Mission (MOM), or Mangalyaan, including the fabrication and testing of scientific instruments at the Space Applications Centre.

3. Government is providing training

Further, the Government of India has made various planned and legislative interventions and created enabling provisions to ensure participation of women in various occupations. To enhance the employability of women workers under Skill India Mission, the Government is providing training to them through a network of Women Industrial Training Institutes, National Vocational Training Institutes and Regional Vocational Training Institutes.

To encourage employment of women, several enabling provisions have been incorporated in the recently enacted labour codes. The Code on Wages, 2019, the Code on Industrial Relations, 2020, the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020 and the Code on Social Security, 2020 are particularly noteworthy for creating a conducive work environment for women workers. The National Agriculture Market or e-NAM is an online trading platform for agricultural commodities, the scheme "Kisan Call Centre" answers the queries of farmers on telephone calls in their own language, mobile applications like Kisan Suvidha, Krishi Bazar, National Crop Insurance Portal, Umang (Unified Mobile) are in place. These digital innovations are helping women overcome or compensate for the barriers they face in accessing markets.

The Government of India is implementing "Mission Shakti" which has two components, Sambal and Samarth. "Sambal" operates components such as BetiBachao BetiPadhao, One Stop Centre, Women Helpline and Nari Adalat. "Samarthya" is a sub-scheme whose components include Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana, Shakti Sadan, Centre for Empowerment of Women, Sakhi Niwas i.e. Working Women Hostel, Palna, Anganwadi cum Creche.

4. Government is improving access of farming women

Farmer welfare schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri KrishiSinchaiYojana, Paramparagat KrishiVikasYojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana etc. creates an enabling environment for women farmers. Through these initiatives, the Government is improving access of farming women to productive resources including agricultural extension services, thereby improving the lives of rural women overall. The National Cooperative Development Corporation is playing a vital role in the upliftment of women cooperatives, as a large number of women are engaged in cooperatives dealing with activities related to food grain processing, plantation crops, oilseed processing, fisheries, dairy and livestock, spinning mills, handloom and powerloom weaving, integrated cooperative development projects, etc.

5. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana are in the name of women

Under the Government's flagship scheme DeendayalAntyodayaYojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM), about 90 lakh women Self Help Group (SHG) groups are functioning, with about 10 crore women members. These are changing the rural scenario with regard to economic empowerment of women. A majority of the nearly 40 million houses sanctioned under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana are in the name of women. All this has increased women's participation in financial decision making. 'Vocal for Local' has a great deal to do with women empowerment, as the power of most local products lies in the hands of women.

6. Representation of women in the armed forces

The government has made enabling provisions to increase the representation of women in the armed forces, such as granting permanent commission to women including in roles like combat pilots, allowing women to enter the National Defence Academy (NDA), admitting girls in Sainik Schools, etc. Women officers in the Indian Air Force are inducted across all branches and streams. The Indian Air Force has for the first time inducted women into other ranks as AgniveerVayu under the Agneepath scheme. Currently 154 women candidates are undergoing training.

6.1. Women participation in government service

The government has also taken various women-centric initiatives that can encourage more women participation in government service. These include, among others, availing child care leave (CCL), leaving headquarters and going on foreign tours during CCL, special allowance to disabled women employees at the rate of Rs 3000 per month for child care. Apart from this, special exemption has also been made for women officers of All India Services of North East Cadre, leave up to 90 days to women government employees who are allegedly victims of sexual harassment, fee exemption from competitive examination to women, posting of husband and wife at the same station, etc. States/UTs have also been advised to increase the number of women bus drivers, conductors and tourist guides. Apart from this, the government has also issued advisories to all state governments and union territories to increase the representation of women to 33 percent in the total number of police personnel in the states/UTs.

7. The Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2023

The presence of women in public life has increased. For the first time in the country since independence, 81 women were elected as Lok Sabha members in the 2019 Lok Sabha elections. Panchayati Raj institutions have more than 1.45 million or 46 percent women elected representatives (as against the mandatory representation of 33 percent). The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1992) to the Constitution of India had reserved 1/3 of the seats in panchayats and municipalities for women. The biggest leap for women empowerment and representation of women in the highest political offices of the country is the notification of the Nari Shakti Vandan Act, 2023 (106th Constitutional Amendment) Act, 2023 by the government on September 28, 2023. To reserve one-third of the seats for women in the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies including the Legislative Assembly of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

8. Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana

The most successful scheme of the Modi government for women is Ujjwala Yojana. This scheme was started from Ballia, Uttar Pradesh on 1 May 2016. Women empowerment is a special issue of the policies and schemes of the Bihar government. The government is running many programs and schemes to increase women's employment, poverty alleviation and their confidence. Due to this, their income is continuously increasing.

9. Several steps have been taken by the Bihar Government

9.1. 50% reservation in Panchayat and Municipal bodies

50% reservation in Panchayat and Municipal bodies: 50% reservation for women in Panchayat Raj institutions from 2006 and in Municipal bodies from 2007. 50% seats in primary teacher recruitment are reserved for women.

9.2. Women Battalion

For the first time, a women battalion was formed. One Mahila Thana was established in all 40 police districts and 4 railway police districts and 647 posts of different categories were created for this. Swabhimaan Battalion was formed for women of scheduled castes. 35% reservation for women has been provided in direct recruitment to posts from constable to sub-inspector in the police force. Till now, a total of 3701 women have been appointed against the recommended 12,360 posts in the police force. This includes 3672 women constables and 29 driver constables.

9.3. Skill development

Women of Jeevika group are becoming skilled by joining the skill development activities included in 7 Nischay. The result of the efforts of Jeevika group members is prohibition of liquor. People are also getting determined to get rid of open defecation. Under the Jeevika programme, 8.15 lakh women's self-help groups have been formed so far, covering 88.16 lakh families. 50023 village organisations and 820 cluster level federations are working. So far, 6.02 lakh self-help groups have been linked with banks.

Self-help groups have been affiliated with the Bihar Rural Livelihoods Programme. The self-help groups have a savings of Rs 739 crore.

9.4. 35 percent reservation in government jobs

35 percent reservation for women in all government jobs in the state came into effect from February 2016. Currently, women are being given 35 percent horizontal reservation in all government service appointments in the state.

9.5. Jeevika: A powerful medium of empowerment

Jeevika is a strong program for the development, empowerment and poverty alleviation of women. Bihar Rural Livelihood Project (Jeevika) was started in 2007. It is implemented in all 534 blocks. Under this, continuous work is being done for financial support, micro-credit and account management for livelihood by creating institutional organizations of the poor. The result of Jeevika's efforts is that women have developed the ability to take decisions and they have become aware of their education, health and rights.

10. Has alcohol prohibition in Bihar reduced violence against women?

The liquor ban by Nitish government has brought happiness to the homes of the state. Earlier, most women were victims of violence due to liquor, but now the picture has changed. There is peace in the households of women. Before liquor ban, 54 percent women were victims of domestic violence. When liquor was strictly banned, this figure came down to just five percent. Now there is peace in the villages. The Bihar government in India has implemented a complete ban on alcohol since April 2016, including its manufacture, sale, storage and consumption. The aim of this policy was to reduce domestic violence and prevent men from misusing their earnings on alcohol, which was believed to impoverish households and affect women's well-being.

Such policy making cannot really address the complex issue of violence against women, including its deep roots in patriarchy and other socio-economic structures. However, this bold initiative derives its legitimacy from the persuasive evidence of the negative socio-economic and psychological consequences, including domestic violence, of drinking alcohol, especially at 'harmful' and 'hazardous' levels.

11. Alcohol consumption and violence against women before the prohibition policy

In Bihar, about 30% of men in the 15-49 age group drank alcohol before the prohibition, the National Family Health Survey 2015-16 reveals. Women in this state faced high levels of intimate partner violence – 40% of married women aged 15 to 49 reported that they had faced physical, sexual or emotional violence by their husbands during the past 12 months. Further, while about 25% of women whose husbands did not drink faced violence by their husbands, 75% of women whose husbands were drunk 'very often' faced violence by their husbands. In this context, how did the prohibition policy affect such violence? What do the crime records compiled by the National Crime Records Bureau reveal?

12. Incidence of violence against women after prohibition policy

Violence against women as seen through the number of crimes reported against women has decreased marginally in the state of Bihar and significantly in the city of Patna (the state capital) after prohibition (Figure 1). To avoid year-on-year fluctuations, we compared the average of crimes reported for the three years after the liquor ban with the three years before it (excluding 2016, as the ban came into effect mid-year). Except for kidnapping and abduction cases, which are mostly reported by women's families when they run away, crimes against women have declined clearly in terms of both rate (cases reported per 100,000 female population) and incidence (absolute numbers).

13. Alcohol consumption and violence against women before the prohibition policy

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14. Obstacles to the development of women in Bihar

The condition of women in Bihar had become very pathetic in the medieval era. At that time, there was the purdah system in the society, the male society liked to see women behind the curtains and in the four walls of the house. In the medieval era, women did not have the freedom for economic independence, elite marriage, education and employment. Even after 70 years of independence, the condition of women is still the same in some matters as it was before independence. Even before independence, women had to face bad practices like economic dependence, lack of education, restrictions on employment, joint family system, polygamy and dowry system. Although there have been some changes in these 70 decades, it cannot be denied, but problems like dowry system, lack of education and restrictions on employment still exist.

14.1. Women Empowerment in Bihar: Importance of men in a male-dominated country

By maintaining their masculinity, men have always made women feel inferior to them. Sometimes he plays with her respect and sometimes he beats her. Even after the change in time, men still do not like to give equal status to women, their mentality is still the same as before.

It is unfortunate that the talks and plans of women empowerment in Bihar are limited to cities only. On one hand, women living in big cities and metro cities are educated, financially independent, new thinking, working in high positions, while on the other hand there are women living their lives in the four walls of the village, enduring all the tortures.

The reason behind such behavior of men towards women is not that women are not as capable as men, or they cannot live their life without the help of a man. Rather, men want to satisfy their ego by treating women in such a second-class manner.

14.2. Political parties play the women card to win elections

Governments never miss playing the women card during elections. If we talk about the last four elections of Bihar, the participation of women voters is continuously increasing. In the four assembly elections held in the last two decades, women's voting has increased by about 17 percent. In the last two elections, women have consistently outperformed men in voting percentage. The number of women voters is continuously increasing and now the victory or defeat of many political parties depends on women voters. In such a situation, it becomes very important that work should be done in favor of the women of the state and to get votes from them, first focus should be on their development. However, there is no doubt that the government has done many important works for women empowerment and their upliftment in Bihar, such as ban on dowry system and female foeticide, right to equal education and schemes to provide employment to women have also been issued. Apart from this, on the request of most women, the government also took strict steps for prohibition. Prohibition was a difficult step taken by the government to please the women voters. Because after the announcement of prohibition in 2016, there was a huge reduction in the income source of the state. According to official figures, this loss is about Rs 5,500 crore per year. Apart from this, the government has given 50 percent reservation to women in panchayat elections and 35 percent in government jobs.

14.3. The evil practice of child marriage in Bihar is fatal for girls

Even today, the evil practice of child marriage is prevalent in Bihar. In fact, even today, in many places in Bihar, girls are married in childhood or before completing 18 years of age. Even today, many such cases are seen in Bihar where families get their daughters married before 18 years of age. They stop their daughters' education midway, they believe that what will girls do by studying, in future they only have to take care of the house. With this mentality, without caring about their dreams and future, the family members stop their education midway and get them married.

14.4. Women Empowerment in Bihar: Challenges in the Education of Girl Students

In today's time, the question of the status, development and empowerment of women is a very important issue. Seventy years after independence, the way education, health, industrialization, employment are growing in our country, the condition of women is not that satisfactory in comparison. Although the educational status of women has improved in our country for some time, despite this the literacy rate is still much lower than that of men.

Like many other backward states, in Bihar too, girls' education is not given importance. With the thought that girls have to take care of the house only, books are snatched from their hands and they are put to do household work. However, with changing times, there are some families who want to educate their girls and they send them to school for this purpose. But many times, due to the schools being far from villages and towns, they have to face many problems. And keeping in mind their safety, parents have to stop their girl's education even if they don't want to.

Apart from this, even in the few government schools that exist in villages and towns, bathroom facilities are not available for girls and the school administration instructs them to go outside, which can prove to be very dangerous for their safety. This is also a reason why parents and the girl students themselves do not want to go to school.

14.5. Family pressure is the biggest hurdle in career

Family pressure is the biggest hurdle in the career of girls. About 90% of the girls of Bihar have family problems. They are ordered to get married as soon as they pass 12th class. Girls are not asked about their future or dreams, what they want to do next, and what they want to become. Some girl students said that the biggest problem here is the mentality of the people. People think that a girl will only do household chores, should stay at home, there is no benefit in studying or working after marriage.

14.6. Unemployment rate of women in Bihar is 95 percent

About 95 percent of women in Bihar are still deprived of employment. Their life is spent only within the four walls of the house. The government has also given reservation for women, but even then sometimes due to government negligence and sometimes due to family pressure, they do not get employment opportunities. The government is now making every possible effort from its side, but there is no change in the mentality of the family members. Even today, people of Bihar consider it wrong for girls to work. The government started many schemes to end unemployment in Bihar, but despite so many efforts of the Bihar government, women of Bihar do not have employment. Apart from this, another aspect is that parents in Bihar do not want their girls to work. Most of the families believe that what will girls do by working, in the end they have to take care of the house. Due to family pressure, the dreams of most girls remain unfulfilled. After completing intermediate studies, they start getting pressure to get married. Apart from this, some girls are not even given time to complete their education. And they are married off. After marriage, due to the pressure of household chores, they do not get the opportunity to learn or do anything. This is the problem with most of the women of Bihar. They start getting constant pressure from home to get married. Family members say that get married and then do whatever you want to do. At the same time, there is a lot of hindrance in their education, they are not able to get good education. Girls in Bihar study only till 12th and 10th because they get money from the government. This is why their families educate them.

14.7. Dowry is very common in Bihar

Dowry is very common in Bihar. Here dowry is demanded without any restriction and if dowry is not given, the marriage is broken. Despite the government's awareness efforts, increasing level of education and increasing participation of girls in employment, the evil practice of dowry has not been eradicated. A large section of the society in Bihar still treats women cruelly in the name of dowry. No matter how educated a girl is, whether she is employed or not, the condition of dowry has to be fulfilled for marriage. Although the government has made many strict laws to stop dowry, under which there is a provision for immediate arrest of the accused. But despite strict law and order, the evil practice of dowry is still prevalent in Bihar. Even in today's era, educated people also openly demand dowry. The greedy ones for dowry make demands without understanding the problem of the other person, due to which most of the poor families have to sell their houses and farms for the marriage of their daughters and this is also a big reason due to which more cases of female foeticide are seen in the state.

14.8. Rate of dowry increased by 25 percent

The rate of dowry in Bihar has increased by about 25 percent this year as compared to last year. In which the rate for an engineer is between 10 to 30 lakh rupees, while the IAS is getting whatever price is demanded. A few years ago, the dowry of a bank clerk was 6-8 lakhs, but now it is between 7 to 10 lakhs. Similarly, the rate has increased tremendously for the grooms of other categories as well. People in Bihar have devised their own ways of taking dowry. Some people ask for land and jewellery instead of money. The land is registered in the name of the boy or it is said that the girl should be sent off wearing jewellery of so many tolas of gold.

Cash, jewellery, car and household furniture are a must in dowry. Apart from this, there is a long list. Even brands of electronic goods are decided. The list includes conditions for food menu and AC and non-AC rooms for the baraat. The band is decided only then. For IPS and allied service people, 50 to 75 lakh cash and goods, jewellery etc. worth 25 lakh are decided.

14.9. Maximum cases of female foeticide in Bihar

Maximum cases of female foeticide are registered in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. People here consider girls a burden. The latest figures prove that the incidents of killing girls in the womb or as soon as they are born have increased a lot. They

believe that dowry is often a huge expense in the marriage of girls. After raising and educating them all their lives, the expenses of their marriage and dowry often break the back of the father. That is why they find it easier to kill the child in the womb rather than giving birth to them and spending on their upbringing and marriage. Parents do not want to send their daughters out due to fear of record breaking rape cases. Families are often in fear due to record breaking rape cases in Bihar and this is also a reason why families are afraid of sending their daughters out. There are almost no jobs in Bihar that is why people of Bihar do not have to look for jobs. In search of love, girls have to migrate to big cities.

15. Conclusion

The role of society in women empowerment in Bihar is very important. Any country cannot progress until its women become empowered in important areas like politics, education and health. Despite the policies and schemes of the government, the truth is that women still have to face various social and economic problems. Until the family and society change their thinking towards women, the resolution of women empowerment in Bihar cannot be fulfilled. Women are half of our society. At present, this thing is used only in sermons and slogans. There is still a need for a lot of change for gender equality in our society. We celebrate Women Empowerment Day for women. In which we talk about the sacrifices made by women. Often on social media, we write articles of thousands of words about the achievements of women and their sacrifices, but do women and men have equal status in reality? However, now the government is making continuous efforts to promote women empowerment in the country. Schemes are being started to promote women empowerment in Bihar along with other states. But despite so many efforts of the government, there has not been much improvement in the condition of women empowerment in Bihar. From the center to the state government, many types of announcements are made to give equal place to women in the society and provide them security, but what is the condition of women in our country, it can be guessed from this, that even today in many districts of India, the life of most women remains confined to the four walls of the house. Bihar is also included in these districts, where about 75 percent of women are unemployed. The number of working women in Bihar is much less than in other states. In Bihar, girl students are married off before they complete their education. And some women, despite being educated, are not allowed by their families to work. Parents believe that private companies have more male employees, so women will not be able to stay safe in them. In Bihar, even educated women are unable to do anything for their rights and, despite not wanting to, they have to give up their dreams of becoming self-reliant and empowered and are forced to live a life that they are against. With changing times, traditions are changing, social and cultural values are also changing. New attitudes and new values are being established in Bihar due to the influence of changing generations, but there has not been any significant change in the status of women here. It seems as if the pace of development of women in Bihar has slowed down a lot. Despite changing governments and changing times, cases of violence against women are extremely shameful. Women still have to face inhumane behavior like gender discrimination, child marriage, forcing to follow traditional behavior, domestic violence, inequality, deprivation of education, molestation, rape, dowry, female foeticide, harassment for not having children, not having a son. What is even more shameful is that even today our society considers these inhumane behaviors to be normal. This is not just a matter of today, but our history also shows that women have never got equal rights as men. In such a situation, women empowerment in Bihar is just a dream. But with the steps and government schemes being taken by the Central Government and Bihar Government towards women empowerment, there is every possibility of change in the condition and direction of women in Bihar in the economic, social, educational, family and political fields in the coming days. However, in today's time, a better change in the condition of women in Bihar cannot be denied. But the employment situation of women is still not the same as in other states of the country. It cannot be denied that the condition of women in Bihar has become stronger than before, but only with further change in the situation will Bihar move towards becoming a developed state.

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